

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 ACDA-05 /029 W
----- 028781

R 270150Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7224

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

SECDEF WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, JA, ESTU

SUBJECT: GOJ ARMS EXPORT CONTROL POLICY

REF: TOKYO 1553 DTG 021347Z JAN 76

1. WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS JAPANESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITIONS OF ASAHI HAVE BOTH FRONTPAGED ARTICLES INDICATING GOJ HAS REACHED A NEW "UNIFIED VIEW" ON ARMS EXPORT CONTROL POLICY. (EXPLANATION OF "UNIFIED VIEW" HAD BEEN PROMISED OWING TO OPPOSITION DISSATISFACTION WITH GOJ'S EARLIER EXPLANATION OF ARMS CONTROL POLICY GIVEN IN BUDGET COMMITTEE LATE JANUARY/EARLY FEBRUARY).

2. ACCORDING ARTICLES, GOJ'S RESTRAINT POLICY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED IN THAT IT NOW INCORPORATES NOT ONLY ORIGINAL "THREE PRINCIPLES" AGAINST ARMS EXPORTS TO CERTAIN AREAS BUT ALSO NEW PLEDGE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL "REFRAIN FROM" EXPORTS OF ARMS TO ALL OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. GOVERNMENT ADDITIONALLY PLEDGES THAT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR MANUFACTURING WEAPONS WILL BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS ARMS THEMSELVES.

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3. ON 2/25 EMBASSY CONTACTED MITI TO INQUIRE WHETHER PRESS STORIES TRUE AND WHEN GOJ'S NEW PRINCIPLES WILL BE PLACED BEFORE DIET.

4. MITI REPLIED THAT, TO DATE, NO FIXED "NEW PRINCIPLES" OR "UNIFIED VIEW" HAS BEEN DECIDED UPON AND THAT PAPERS ARE REPORTING CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOJ AS THOUGH NEW POLICY DECIDED. MITI ALSO SAID DATE NEW PRINCIPLES WILL BE PLACED BEFORE DIET STILL UNKNOWN.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: PLEDGE TO "REFRAIN FROM" ARMS EXPORTS TO ALL COUNTRIES WILL STRENGTHEN SLIGHTLY EXISTING COMMITMENT MITI HAS GIVEN SINCE 1967 NOT TO APPROVE ARMS EXPORTS IN PRINCIPLE BUT TO REVIEW THEM ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. INCLUSION OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR MANUFACTURING WEAPONS WOULD ALSO BE A NEW ELEMENT. ASAHI EDITORIALIZES THAT RECENT ARMS INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO EXPAND ARMS EXPORTS HAVE "AWAKENED A SLEEPING DOG" TO THE INDUSTRY'S FURTHER DISADVANTAGE. EMBASSY WILL MONITOR AND REPORT FURTHER AS SITUATION WARRANTS.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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